

# Dinos Constantinides

## Parodos - The Battle of Thebes

*from Antigone*

LRC 242



**magni**

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DINOS CONSTANTINIDES: THE BATTLE OF THEBES (PARODOS from  
ANTIGONE)

Baton Rouge, April 1985

ANTIGONE by SOPHOCLES

English versions by

Dudley Fitts and

Robert Fitzgerald

PÁRODOS

CHORUS:

Now the long blade of the sun, lying  
Level east to west, touches with glory  
Thebes of the Seven Gates, Open, unlidded  
Eye of golden day! O marching light  
Across the eddy and rush of Dirce's stream,  
Striking the white shields of the enemy  
Thrown headlong backward from the blaze of  
morning

CHORAGOS:

Polyneicês their commander  
Roused with windy phrases,  
He the wild eagle screaming  
Insults above our land,  
His wings their shields of snow,  
His crest their marshaled helms.

CHORUS:

Against our seven gates in a yawning ring  
The famished spears came onward in the night;  
But before his laws were sated with our blood,  
Or pinefire took the garland of our towers,  
He was thrown back; and as he turned, great  
Thebes—  
No tender victim for his noisy power—  
Rose like a dragon behind him shouting war.

CHORAGOS:

For God hates utterly  
The bray of bragging tongues;  
And when he beheld their smiling,  
Their swagger of golden helms,  
The frown his thunder blasted  
The first man from our walls.

CHORUS:

We heard his shout of triumph high in the air  
Turn to a scream; far out in a flaming arc  
He fell with his windy torch, and the earth struck  
him.  
And others storming in fury no less than his  
Found shock of death in the dusty joy of battle.

CHORAGOS:

Seven captains at seven gates  
Yielded their clanging arms to the god  
That bends the battle-line and breaks it.  
These two only, brothers in blood,  
Face to face in matchless rage,  
Mirroring each the other's death,  
Clashed in long combat.

CHORUS:

But now in the beautiful morning of victory  
Let Thebes of the many chariots sing for joy!  
With hearts for dancing we'll take leave of war:  
Our temples shall be sweet with hymns of praise  
And the long night shall echo with our chorus.

Instrumentation:

Flute, two Oboes, Bassoon, two Trumpets in C  
Percussion and Strings

Musical score for Percussion section. The score is written on two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Timpani' and contains a sequence of notes: a half note G2, a half note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, a quarter note B1, a quarter note A1, a quarter note G1, and a quarter note F1. The bottom staff is labeled 'Percussion' and contains five measures of rhythmic notation: 'Temple Blocks' (a quarter note), 'Wood Blocks' (a quarter note), 'Snare Drum' (a quarter note), 'Triangle' (a quarter note), and 'Cowbell' (a quarter note).

Soprano Soloist and mixed chorus (SATB)

Explanation of Symbols

Musical symbol for screaming: a note on a staff with a sharp upward-pointing arrow above it.

screaming

Musical symbol for highest possible pitch: a note on a staff with a sharp upward-pointing arrow above it, reaching the top line of the staff.

highest possible pitch

Musical symbol for repetition of a bar: a double bar line with a slash and a dot through it, placed on a staff.

repetition of a bar

Musical symbol for continue the sound: a horizontal line with an arrow pointing to the right, placed on a staff.

continue the sound

Musical symbol for spoken (vocal part): a note on a staff with a vertical line through it, placed on a staff.

spoken (vocal part)

c. l. col legno